

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20

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P R 061746Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1077

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MO

SUBJ: SECURITY SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

1. GOM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ISSUED COMMUNIQUE EVENING FEB 6 REPORTING DISMANTLING SUBVERSIVE CELLS AT FES AND CASABLANCA. COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBES IN DETAIL ACTIONS TAKEN AND BEING TAKEN BY SECURITY FORCES. STATES THAT PERSON CAPTURED FOLLOWING PLACING OF BOMBS AT CASABLANCA OFFICE PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS LE MATIN AND MAROC SOIR AND RESIDENCE OF A PROFESSOR HAKAKAT LAST JULY WHILE KENITRA TRIAL UNDER WAY HAS SAID THAT ATTACK AGAINST KENITRA PRISON WAS ALSO PLANNED BY SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION LED BY MOHAMED EL BASRI AND HIS FOLLOWERS BASED IN PARIS AND ORAN WHERE THEY NORMALLY RESIDE. COMMUNIQUE ALSO DESCRIBES INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT AT OUJDA AND ARREST JAN 2 1974 OF OUDGHIRI ZAHIR DRISS WHO ADMITTED COMING TO MOROCCO FROM A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY TO EXPLODE TWO BOMBS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN FES AND CASABLANCA AND TO CARRY OUT ATTACKS AGAINST CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS. ARREST ON JANUARY 12 OF STILL ANOTHER PERSON, MERZAK EL YAZID, IN OUJDA REGION JUST AFTER HE SECRETLY CROSSED ALGERIAN BORDER IN HIS

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CAR EN ROUTE TO PICK UP HOHAMED MARMOUCHE (WHO HAD

PREVIOUSLY TRANSPORTED EXPLOSIVES AND ARMS FROM ALGERIA TO OUJDA) HAS LED TO CAPTURE OF EXPLOSIVES AND ARMS AS WELL AS DISMANTLING OF SUBVERSIVE CELLS AT OUJDA, AIT ETAB IN BENI MELLAL REGION, AND AT RABAT. FROM STATEMENTS OF THOSE CAPTURED IT WAS LEARNED THAT MOHAMED LAKHASSI AND M'BAREK BOUDERKA (NOTE, ONE-TIME APPRENTICE LAWYER IN UNFP LEADER BOUABID'S RABAT OFFICE) WERE CHARGED BY BASRI WITH RECRUITING IN ORAN AND SENDING SUBSERSIVE ELEMENTS TO MOROCCO TO CARRY OUT ATTACKS IN URBAN CENTERS. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES BY SAYING INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

2. COMMENT. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THIS COMMUNIQUE HAS PROVIDED NEW IMPETUS AND MUCH GRIST FOR LOCAL RUMOR MILL AND WE UNDERSTAND SPANISH RADIO HAS ALREADY CARRIED REPORTS OF NEW PLOT AGAINST KING. SITUATION REMAINS CALM THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH NUMBER GENDARMERIE ROADBLOCKS IN EVIDENCE. UNFP SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT IN HIS OPINION DRAMATIC COMMUNIQUE WAS CONCOCTED BY HARDLINERS IN REGIME WHO WANT TO DISCOURAGE KING FROM MAKING ANY CONCILIATORY STEP TOWARD OPPOSITION IN GENERAL AND LONG-DETAINED UNFP MEMBERS IN PARTICULAR.

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